Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-5, 13-15 and 18 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 18 being independent. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended herein.

Claims 1, 3-5, 13-15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Japanese Laid-open Patent Application No. 2000-143025 (Koto et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,502,545 (Tsuruoka). Claim 2 was rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,549,826 (Stoeberl). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a recording apparatus for conveying a recording medium by an endless belt member and performing recording on the recording medium by a recording device. The apparatus includes a plurality of electrodes, an electrical feeding member, a conveyance failure detection element and a control portion. The plurality of electrodes line up in such a manner as to be along a surface of the endless belt member that contacts the recording medium. The electrical feeding member applies a first electrical voltage to a part of the plurality of electrodes in such a manner that adjacent electrodes of the plurality of electrodes have different potentials so as to attract the recording medium to a position of the endless belt member located opposed to the recording device. The conveyance failure detection element detects a conveyance failure of the recording medium. The control portion controls the electrical feeding member to feed a second electrical voltage value to

the part of electrodes in order to reduce or remove an attraction force of the endless belt member at the position opposed to the recording device, based on a detection signal of the conveyance failure detection element. The control portion stops the endless belt member in accordance with the detection signal from the conveyance failure detection element. The control portion also controls to reduce or eliminate the attraction force of the endless belt member to the recording medium stopped at the position opposed to the recording device in accordance with the detection signal from the conveyance failure detection element.

As is recited in independent Claim 18, the present invention relates to a recording apparatus for conveying a recording medium by an endless belt member and performing recording on the recording medium by a recording device. The apparatus includes a plurality of electrodes, an electrical feeding member, a conveyance failure detection element and a control portion. The plurality of electrodes line up in such a manner as to be along a surface of the endless belt member that contacts the recording medium. The electrical feeding member charges a part of the plurality of electrodes to a predetermined potential in such a manner that adjacent electrodes of the plurality of electrodes have different potentials so as to attract the recording medium to a position of the endless belt member located opposed to the recording device. The conveyance failure detection element detects a conveyance failure of the recording medium. The control portion controls the electrical feeding member to reduce or eliminate the charge of the part of electrodes in order to reduce or remove an attraction force of the endless belt member at the position opposed to the recording device, based on a detection signal of the conveyance failure detection element. The control portion stops the endless belt member in accordance

with the detection signal from the conveyance failure detection element. The control portion also controls to reduce or eliminate the attraction force of the endless belt member to the recording medium stopped at the position opposed to the recording device in accordance with the detection signal from the conveyance failure detection element.

Koto et al. relates to an image recording device having a conveyor belt 16 provided with the attracting force generating means 31 comprised of electrode plates 32, 33. However, as recognized by the Examiner, Koto et al. fails to disclose or suggest the claimed conveyance failure detection element and control portion.

Thus, Koto et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Tsuruoka relates to a jam processing device for use in an image forming apparatus. The jam processing device can destaticize a charge transfer belt when a paper jam occurs in order to eject the paper. Tsuruoka uses destaticizing corotrons 37 to destaticize the transfer belt. Corotron 37 is not disposed at a position of the endless belt member located opposite to a recording device, but rather further downstream of such position. Accordingly, according to Applicant, only a portion of the conveying belt which passes through the corotron is destaticized. The portion opposed to the recording device is not destaticized and is still attracted to the recording medium. Applicant submits that if conveyance failure were to occur at the transfer belt position, a procedure as described at col. 11, lines 13-18 of Tsuruoka would be performed. If such a procedure was performed, the recording medium would be attracted to the conveying belt when the user removes the recording medium.

Accordingly, Tsuruoka fails to disclose or suggest that the control portion controls to reduce or eliminate an attraction force of the endless belt member to the recording medium stopped at a position opposed to the recording device in accordance with a detection signal from a conveyance failure detection element, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 18.

Tsuruoka fails to remedy the deficiencies of Koto et al. noted above with respect to independent Claims 1 and 18.

Stoeberl was cited by the Examiner for teaching a sensor for detecting curled paper ends, but is also not believed to remedy the deficiencies of the citations noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1 and 18 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 18. Dependent Claims 2-5 and 13-15 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

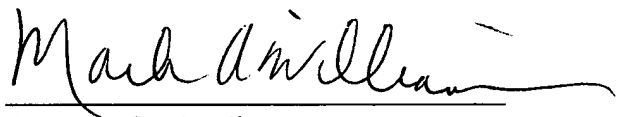
This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in

condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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